The Urban District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1968

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

R. Robson & Sons, Abbey Press, Hexham.

STAFF

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

J. K. PATTERSON	Chief Public Health Inspector
R. GARDENER	Assistant Public Health Inspector
B. MAKEPEACE	Student Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS, Clerk

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LA Dir.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM.

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TELEPHONE: HEXHAM ~~XXXX~~ 3555

Council Offices,
Hexham House,
Hexham,
Northumberland.

25th September, 1969.

Dear Sir,

The Council have accepted my Annual Report with the deletion of the word "adequately" at the bottom of Page 2 as applied to the provision of sewage disposal facilities.

I should be grateful if you would amend your copies of the Report accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. McEwan.

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
LONDON, S.E.1.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Hexham :

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

The town of Hexham is a stable community and while it has seen many changes in its long history, the pace of change is too slow to allow many differences to be recorded in successive Annual Reports, concerned as they are with social conditions and personal and environmental welfare. It is only possible to reflect the picture already given of Hexham as a busy and prosperous market town, the centre of administrations and cultural activities for many more than its own population, and an increasing attraction for visitors on account of its charm and historic interest. It is a pleasant place to work and live in, and offers a satisfactory diversity of employment, but like other towns of its size it cannot offer opportunities to a sufficient number of young people and many look elsewhere. The vital statistics show this in their pattern.

The population at mid-year in 1968 is estimated at 10,000, a round figure which it has taken many years to achieve. There were 141 births, almost matched by 147 deaths, and the birth rate was rather below and the death rate rather above the national average. There were five deaths in infancy, all under one week, due in four cases to difficult labour and in one case to prematurity, and this gives an infant mortality rate of 33.4 per 1,000 live births — double the national average and the highest for ten years. Against this disappointing figure can be set the fact that there were no infant deaths in 1967, and that no great significance should be attached to one year in isolation. At the other end of the scale, more than half the deaths were at age 75 or over, the highest age group classified. The chief causes of death were diseases of the heart, vascular disease of the nervous system and cancer.

The infectious diseases notified are tabulated elsewhere in the Report, and show no significant features. There were 10 cases of dysentery among children, a troublesome and

highly infectious disease that is not easy to control, a few cases of scarlet fever and measles, and seven cases of infective jaundice, first made notifiable in October, 1968. With the changes in notification brought in then, it is no longer possible to continue the 20 year comparison table of infectious diseases, but it is worth stating that the last case of diphtheria was notified in 1947 and the last case of poliomyelitis in 1958. While tuberculosis is still notified it is now in small numbers and the disease is no longer a serious problem. There were three notifications in 1968, one of pulmonary and two of non-pulmonary disease, with no deaths.

The housing situation in Hexham is satisfactory as far as general housing goes, and the policy now is the improvement of older Council houses rather than new building. There is still insufficient provision for old people, whether in bungalows or in sheltered accommodation, and the need is likely to increase. The proposed grouped dwellings for the frail elderly are still being planned, but progress is being made and the scheme may not be long delayed. There are no plans at present for further bungalows, but as a result of an investigation carried out into the maximum and minimum temperatures reached in existing bungalows heated by open fires, it is proposed to provide district central heating for them.

There are very few properties in Hexham supplied with water from private sources, but these are the responsibility of the Council and routine investigations are carried out, with advice on remedial action where necessary. Almost the whole town is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company with water of satisfactory quality and quantity, of rather low natural fluoride content but not unduly plumbosolvent. The Company undertake very frequent sampling, and take remedial action should a sample be unsatisfactory. Test samples are taken by the Department, and each makes the results known to the other. There is very good co-operation, and complaints are dealt with promptly.

The joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme with Hexham Rural District is in operation, and while investigation continues to be made into the state of the effluent it can be said that the town is adequately provided with modern sewage disposal facilities.

The Public Health Committee consists of the whole Council, and I am grateful to the Councillors for their support and encouragement during the year. The Clerk and other Officers have continued to be courteous and co-operative, and I am grateful to them for their help. The Department has settled down well with its change of staff, and is working efficiently.

I am ,Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,932
Estimated Population	10,000

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate..	71	64 ..	135
Illegitimate	2	4 ..	6
			141

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate..	—	— ..	—
Illegitimate	—	— ..	—
			—
			—
			—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.9
Total Live and Still Births	141
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.9
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births ..	Nil
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population..	16.9
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births	14.0

DEATHS :

Total deaths	147
Total infant deaths	5
Infant deaths under four weeks	5
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants	5
Illegitimate infants	Nil
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	33.4
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	18.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 births	33.4
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births	33.4

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	33.4
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births	33.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	33.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..	4.01
Deaths from Maternal causes..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages)	12.9
Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population all causes and ages)	11.9

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

	Male	Female
0—1	2	3
1—4	—	—
5—14	—	—
15—24	—	1
25—34	—	1
35—44	1	1
45—54	5	2
56—64	10	11
65—74	12	18
75 and Over	32	48
	62	85

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Malignant neoplasm—stomach	2	2
lung, bronchus	2	6
breast	—	2
uterus	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms	8	5
Diabetes Mellitus	1	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	16	24
Other forms of heart disease	2	—
Cerebrovascular disease	6	10
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	2	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	4
Peptic ulcer	3	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Birth injury, difficult labour	2	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	1
Other diseases of nervous system	2	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	4
Other diseases of digestive system	1	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	2	7
All Causes	62	85
TOTAL	147	

INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1968

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths Under 1 year
Birth injury, difficult labour	4	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1
	5	5

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1948	17.7	12.2	12.4
1949	13.9	17.3	39.4
1950	16.0	13.7	53.0
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.2
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2
1965	14.4	11.5	21.4
1966	15.8	12.6	19.5
1967	17.8	11.7	—
1968	14.9	12.9	33.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1968.

Notifiable Disease	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward	Age not known
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	10	—	—	1	7	1	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Dysentery	16	1	1	—	6	2	6	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice.. ..	7	—	—	1	4	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	46	1	1	2	25	4	9	1	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1948-1968

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
1948	7	4	6	1
1949	6	6	1	—
1950	7	5	2	—
1951	3	2	1	—
1952	4	2	—	—
1953	5	8	1	—
1954	4	1	—	—
1955	14	2	—	—
1956	7	4	1	—
1957	6	1	—	1
1958	10	2	—	—
1959	7	2	—	—
1960	3	—	—	—
1961	11	—	1	—
1962	8	3	1	1
1963	3	2	—	—
1964	4	1	—	—
1965	4	1	—	—
1966	5	1	—	—
1967	1	—	—	—
1968	1	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1968 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED) RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	1

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths— Nil.

Outbreaks Due to :—

(a) Chemical Poisons .. .. Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms .. .. Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin) .. .. .. Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum .. .. Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria .. .. Nil.

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks—Nil.. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths—Nil.

SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified—1 Unknown cause—Nil. Total—1

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required owing to illness or confinement and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

4. Local Authority Clinics

The following Clinics are held in the district :

Child Welfare Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Friday, 9-30 a.m. — 12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Second and third Tuesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

First, second and third Wednesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Women's Advisory Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.
Fourth and fifth Wednesdays in each month, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.
Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Mr. J. K. Patterson)

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces		124
Milk and Dairies		49
Drainage Works :	Alterations—additions	24
	New Constructions	57
	Defective	2
Water Supply		43
Food Premises		517
Slaughter House		608
Caravan Control		79
Clean Air		21
Offensive Trades		14
Visits, Public Health Acts		389
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin		165
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act		219

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

All drains are tested by smoke or by hydraulic test.

Total length of 4" drain	2,429 ft.
,, ,, ,, 6" ,,	96 ft.
New properties	27
Improvements to existing properties	11

Sanitary conveniences

Additional baths provided	38
Additional sinks provided	38

Notifiable Diseases

Routine visits were paid to all cases of infectious diseases notified to the department, and the necessary action taken.

16 cases of sonne dysentery were notified during the year. A total of 21 faecal specimens were submitted to the public health laboratory for examination and report.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the district.

Disinfestation

Approved insecticides are used for the eradication of vermin and parasites.

The household ant gave rise to several complaints during the year. All were satisfactorily dealt with.

Spraying of the Council's refuse tip for flies and other insect pests was carried out during the months of May to August, and a satisfactory state of control was achieved.

Few complaints were received from domestic premises in regard to household fly problems. Where requested advice and guidance were given.

Swimming Pool

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the area which is used by members of the public, and regular samples are collected during the season, 5 being obtained during this period, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

Water Supply

The supply of water through the town's mains is administered by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company Limited, whose officials have always been co-operative and helpful when any situation arose in which the department was concerned.

Regular sampling of water from both the Gunnerton and Ladle Wells supplies was carried out, the public health laboratory at Newcastle being responsible for the necessary examination and report.

Number of samples collected by the department	13
Number of samples collected by the Water Company	21

By courtesy of Dr. A. T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, the following typical analyses of water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton is reproduced.

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at	*Gunnerton*	*Ladle Wells*
pH Value	7.0	7.4
Colour..	3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity	0	0
Hardness	64	26
Alkalinity	32	45
Chloride	14	9
Sulphate	30	14
Ammonia	.06	.02
Iron	.02	.05
Manganese	< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed ..	0.4	0
Fluoride	0.1 average 0.2 max.	0.1 max.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Systematic inspections of food premises and food factories have continued during the year and standards of such premises remain satisfactory.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

There are 119 food premises of various types within the district, 64 of which are registered under the main Act. Systematic visits of inspection were made during the year and the general standard of both the premises and the personnel remains satisfactory.

The following table details the food premises within the district :

Type of Business	Total No.	No. complying with Reg. 16	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses.. ..	5	5	5	5
Butchers	9	9	9	9
Grocers	17	17	15	15
Catering Establishments ..	14	14	14	14
Public houses ..	12	12	—	—
Greengrocers ..	6	6	6	6
Wet fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Fried fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Ice-cream dealers/ sweets	50	50	3	3

Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are two registered producers within the district and a satisfactory standard has been achieved during the year.

There are 50 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and no cases of unsatisfactory hygiene practices arose during the period.

Number of new registrations during the year..	3
Number of samples collected	13

Results of examination :—

Grade 1 ..	11
,, 2 ..	1
,, 3 ..	1
,, 4 ..	—

Milk Special Designation Regulations 1960

Routine sampling for keeping quality of milk arriving at the local dairy was carried out.

Number collected for report on keeping quality (Methylene-blue)	28

The County Health Department carried out the necessary sampling of heat-treated milk obtained from the various dealers in the area including those supplying the local schools.

Brucellosis

The supply of milk from the 3 producer retailers in the district was sampled according to the procedure laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular 17/66.

(1)	Number of samples of raw milk examined	17
(2)	Number of positive samples found ..	Nil

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

(i)	Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district	Nil
(ii)	Number of samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results	Nil
(iii)	Comments on the year's administration of these Regulations	—

Poultry Inspection

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district	Nil
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises.. ..	Nil
(iii)	Total number of birds processed during the year	Nil
(iv)	Types of birds processed	Nil
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption..	Nil
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption..	Nil
(vii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection	Nil

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

The operation of these regulations proceeded satisfactorily. The only difficulties experienced were with a small number of itinerant traders, who after being informed of the necessary requirement, either took the necessary steps to comply with the regulations or ceased to operate in the district.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered		Seized	Legal Proceedings
	sts.	lbs.		
Beef (Home-killed) ..	197	12	—	—
Beef (Imported)	—	—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed) ..	62	10	—	—
Mutton (Imported) ..	—	—	—	—
Pork	51	12	—	—
Game	—	—	—	—
Poultry	—	—	—	—
Veal	20	4		
	lbs.	ozs.		
Fish	21	0	—	—
Fruit	—	—	—	—
Canned Goods (Meat) ..	215	11	—	—
,, ,, (Assorted)	88	4	—	—
Bacon	—	—	—	—
Cheese	—	—	—	—
Butter	—	—	—	—
Lard	—	—	—	—
Eggs	—	—	—	—
Other Foods	3	2	—	—
Frozen Foods	30	3	—	—

TOTAL .. 380 st. 5 lbs. 2 oz

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excld'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1, 346	30	20	5,113	1,460	7,969
Number not inspected ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil·
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcases condemned	3	2	4	17	3	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	62	7	2	103	28	202
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	4.83	30.0	30.0	2.34	2.12	
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	0.22	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
C. Bovis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigertion	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
250	1,096	30	20	4,974	139	1,407	51

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows	43	617	660
Other Animals ..	10	8,376	8,386
TOTAL ..	53	8,993	9,046

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	19
Whole Carcases condemned	6	3	5	3	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	-
Part Carcases or organs affected ...	53	21	48	39	33	9	14	7	—	2	1	1	-
Percentage affected ...	12.0%	6.3%	7.8%	11.3%	9.5%	3.1%	5%	6.6%	—	3.0%	.72%	2.94%	-

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter 4

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district .. .	4,184	60
Total number of properties inspected following notification	48	3
Number infested by rats	38	1
Number infested by mice	5	—
Number of properties inspected other than by notification	23	4
Number infested by rats	—	1
Number infested by mice..	2	—

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted 2

AGRICULTURE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE (PROVISIONS), ACT, 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of this Act are administered by the local authority. There are 36 farms and holdings within the district.

The arrangements provided by the owners have been found to be satisfactory in relation to the size of the premises.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Under the provisions of this Act registration of dealers is carried out by the local authority, the Act being administered by the Police.

There are 7 registered dealers within the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Table A : Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number Newly registered during year	Total number at end of year	Number of general inspections
Offices	5	74	31
Retail shops	3	110	45
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	2	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	17	2
Fuel storage depots ..	—	1	—
Totals ..	8	204	78

Table B : Number of visits of all kinds 219

Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	301
Retail shops	677
Wholesale departments, warehouses ..	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens	97
Fuel storage depots	2
Total :	1086
(Males 404 : Females 682).	

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections (Including Inspections by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	54	3	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	6	26	—	—
Total ..	87	82	3	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences— (a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	4	2	—	1	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	3	—	1	—

There are no Registered Outworkers within the district.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Date Operative	*Adopting Authority*	*Subject Matter of Byelaw*
7/5/03 ..	North'd County Council ..	Street betting Street obstructions Street music Lights on vehicles
3/11/27 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures
11/2/32 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Slaughterhouses
4/8/32 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisance caused by wireless loud speakers. Gramophones in shops and licensed premises
1/5/39 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	New streets
1/7/39 ..	North'd County Council ..	Litter, etc.
1/12/46 ..	North'd County Council ..	Noisy animals
1/3/47 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisances contrary to public decency
1/12/49 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	Markets
1/1/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Bulls
24/4/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Contraceptives in slot machine
17/7/50 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	Sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air
12/10/53 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	Building Byelaws
1/5/56 ..	North'd and Tyneside River Board	Rubbish, refuse or litter
1/10/56 ..	North'd County Council ..	Employment of children
1/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Discharge of fireworks, etc. in places of public entertainment
29/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Coal
1/8/58 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	Building Byelaws -- Smoke prevention
1/9/58 ..	North'd County Council ..	Deposit of mud and other material on highways
1/9/58 ..	Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company ..	Prevention of waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water
1/8/59 ..	North'd County Council ..	Preservation of road margins laid out for ornamental purposes
1/7/61 ..	Hexham U.D.C.	Pleasure grounds.
1/9/61 ..	North'd County Council ..	Fouling of footpaths by dogs.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Three private holiday sites are operated in the area licensed by the local authority for eight months in each year, opening on 1st March and closing on 31st October. A total number of 195 pitches are provided.

The sites are visited regularly during the season and any minor infringements are dealt with as they arise.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action has yet been taken with regard to the establishment of smoke control areas within the Council's administrative area.

During the course of the year a start was made with modernising some 60 of the Council's older houses, a closed room heater with high output boiler being chosen for this scheme, along with many other conversions currently taking place along similar lines, the results of which are that quite a degree of " smokeless " properties are now in being in the district.

Technical information continues to be collated for the use in any future schemes.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Number of visits and inspections 23

This is a useful Act which has been informally used to advantage. The occasional mobile vendor transgresses but usually only through ignorance of the regulations, and even these incidents are on the decline.

The noise produced by the dust extraction machinery of a local factory has been considerably reduced during the year and no complaints have been received since the necessary baffling was installed.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1968

New Houses Completed During the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	Nil	—	—
(b) By any other Authority	Nil	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	30	30

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District	3,461
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,077
Estimated Population	10,000

1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas)	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	5
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure	1
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	Nil

2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action	18
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners	Nil

3.—Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	43
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	12
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	1

4.—Housing Act, 1949

Improvement Grants

(*a*) *Discretionary :*	
Applications submitted to local authority	6
Applications rejected by local authority	Nil
Applications approved	6
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	209
(*b*) *Standard :*	
Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year	6
Total number to date	62

5.—Families Rehoused during 1968

Under points scheme :

From private houses	3
From Council houses	3

Other Cases :

For medical reasons	3
Under eviction orders	2
From unfit houses	2
Key workers	Nil
For other reasons	5
Exchange from private houses	Nil

Decanted from Council houses :

For moral overcrowding	14
For under-occupation	18
For medical reasons	1
For other reasons	16

To aged persons' bungalows :

From Council houses	2
From private houses	1
From other bungalows	Nil

Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :

By other local authorities	Nil
Privately	5
Cancelled applications	2

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair :

Number of applications for certificates	Nil
Number granted	Nil
Undertakings received	Nil
Repairs completed. Cases terminated	Nil